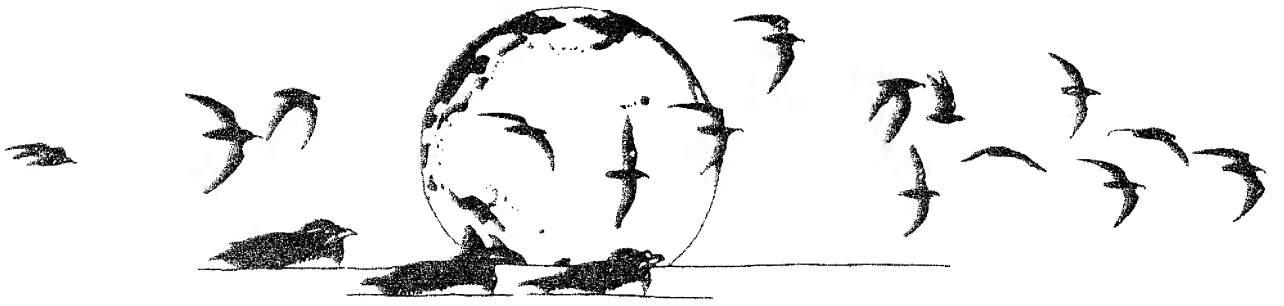
PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP



BULLETIN

Vol. 6 SUMMER 1979 No. 1

SHOUT
SHARE
IT

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) was formed in 1972 out of a need for better communication among Pacific seabird researchers. The Group acts to coordinate and stimulate the field activities of its members and to inform its membership and the general public of conservation issues relating to Pacific seabirds and the marine environment. Current activities include involvement in seabird sanctuaries, human disturbances, coastal surveys, seabird/fisheries interactions, and legislation. Policy statements are issued on conservation issues of critical importance. While the PSG's primary area of interest is the west coast of North America and adjacent areas of the Pacific, it is hoped that seabird enthusiasts in other parts of the world will join and participate in the PSG. Annual dues for membership in the PSG are $5.00 and are payable to the Treasurer (address on back cover). Members receive the PSG Bulletin.

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP BULLETIN

The Pacific Seabird Group Bulletin is issued in the spring or summer and fall or winter of each year. It contains news of interest to PSG members. Regional reports include a listing of current research and information on seabird conservation. The PSG Bulletin does not act as an outlet for the results of scientific research, but welcomes articles on seabird conservation, seabird research activities or other topics that relate to the objectives of the PSG. Articles and all other materials should be submitted to the Editor. Back issues of the PSG Bulletin (starting with Spring, 1974) are available from the Treasurer for $1.00 each.

PERMANENT ADDRESS

Pacific Seabird Group, c/o Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Box 321, Bolinas, California 94924

Note: This address is only for use of people who lose track of the current officers. Routine correspondence should be sent to the appropriate council member as listed on the back cover.

DEDICATED TO THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 1979

Chairman: Ralph Schreiber, Los Angeles County Museum, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90007

Vice Chairman: Palmer Sekora, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, William Finley NWR, Route 2, Box 208, Corvallis, Oregon 97330

Secretary: Paul Springer, Wildlife Research Field Station, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California 95521

Treasurer: Betty Anne Schreiber, Los Angeles County Museum, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90007

Bulletin Editor: James G. King, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Box 1287, Juneau, Alaska 99802

Other Council Members - Regional Representatives:

Northern California: Bob Boekelheide, Wildlife & Fisheries Biology, University of California, Davis, California 95616

At Large: William H. Drury, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

Alaska: Bob Gill, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Hawaii: Craig Harrison, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Box 50167, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Washington: Lora Lynn Leschner, Washington Game Dept., 600 North Capitol Way, Olympia, Washington 98504

At Large: Spencer G. Sealy, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

British Columbia: Kees Vermeer, Canadian Wildlife Service, 5421 Robertson Road, Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2 Canada

Mexico: Bernardo Villa-Ramirez, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Laboratory de Mastozoologia, Apartado Postal 70-233, Mexico 20, D. F. Mexico

Southern California: Ralph Schreiber, as above

Oregon: Palmer Sekora, as above

Vacant: One at Large

Exofficio: John C. Pitcher - Bulletin Art Editor, 2839 Telequeua Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

BULLETIN

VOLUME 6 SUMMER 1979 NUMBER 1

THE CHAIRMAN'S PAGE.....1

FROM THE EDITOR.....2

LIST OF COMMITTEE COORDINATORS.....3

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP NEWS.....4

BULLETIN BOARD.....9

Meeting Notices.....9

Announcements and Requests.....10

Current Literature.....12

Letters to the Editor.....15

REGIONAL REPORTS -- Canada at Large, Wash., Ore., N. Cal.....19

SHORT ARTICLES.....23

Status of the Short-tailed Albatross on Torishima and in the Senkaku Retto 1978-79. Hiroshi Hasegawa.....23

ADDRESS LIST OF PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP MEMBERS.....27

ADDRESS LIST OF OTHER SEABIRD GROUPS.....38

MEMBERS OF PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.....INSIDE BACK COVER

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Pacific Seabird Group

DEDICATED TO THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

The past year has been most interesting to me as "Chairman" of the Pacific Seabird Group. Our membership at present(over 350), the number of new members joining, and the current interest in marine ornithology bode well for the future. Interest in the upcoming annual meeting has been good but finding members willing and able to be involved in other activities of PSG has been more difficult. For the PSG to continue to be a leader in marine bird conservation in the Pacific Basin, and for the "better communication" that everyone desires, the participation of each member is needed.

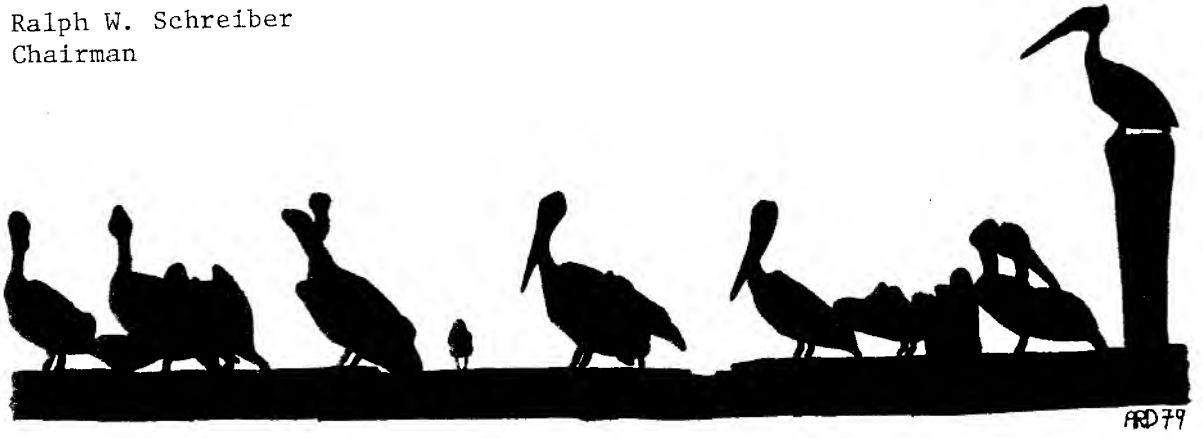
We are contemplating publishing an international refereed journal on marine, colonial ornithology. That is going to take further commitment on the part of the PSG and its members in supplying and reviewing the manuscripts; also in subscribing to the journal and soliciting other subscribers. I am very excited about the prospects for this journal.

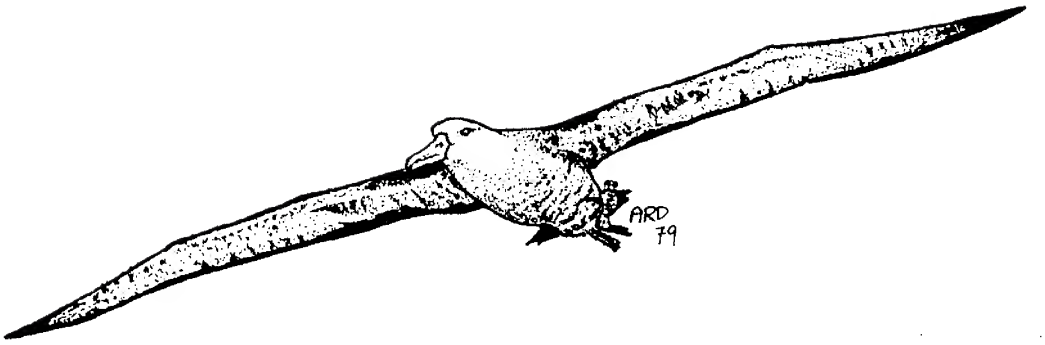
The meeting in January 1980 at Asilomar is shaping up under the leadership of Palmer Sekora and we look forward to seeing you all there. We need persons willing to sponsor a meeting sometime in the winter of 1980-81. Hawaii has been mentioned.

Betty Anne and I will be attending the Symposium on Birds of the Sea and Shore in November 1979 in Cape Town, South Africa. I look forward to reporting on that meeting as well as visiting the pelicans in South Africa.

Suggestions are welcomed about aspects of the PSG. We cannot change and grow unless you as members express yourselves. Let us hear from you.

Ralph W. Schreiber
Chairman





Waved Albatross

FROM THE EDITOR

Despite the vast distances between and the independence of the four Seabird Groups, a strong spiritual tie is obvious. The dream of stronger actual ties keeps surfacing. To encourage this important concept we printed a description of the "new look" in the Seabird Group and an editorial from the Australasian Newsletter.

Our letters to the editor section has matured slightly with some honest discussion there. We hope this trend will continue.

You will appreciate another good article from Dr. Hiroshi Hasegawa.

This issue includes a current membership list from the Treasurer. There is some fear that there are people who should be on that list that are not. The problem stems from changes in the Officers and from the fact that Bulletins and other materials go to post on a 4th class permit and are not forwarded. Please let the Treasurer know if your address changes. Also please advise of any people with whom we may have inadvertently lost contact. Those who have never been involved with handling a large and changing mailing list may not understand the challenge that job is for a volunteer. Please help!

We have some nice art work again from John Pitcher, Tony DeGange(ARD), Laurie Henry and John Schmidt. We appreciate these very much. Art Editor Pitcher is donating his work as the basis for a permanent P.S.G. art file. This will be turned over to succeeding editors and eventually it will be possible to illustrate articles appropriately. If any of our other picture donors do not want their work in the permanent file, please let me know. Anyone wishing to donate to this file, please do.

We are indebted to Linda Dresch of Juneau for layout, typing and editorial assistance.

Jim King

COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

Seabird sanctuaries:

Palmer Sekora
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Finley National Wildlife Refuge
Route 2, Box 208
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

Human disturbances to seabirds:

Paul R. Kelly
California Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Management Branch
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Coastal surveys:

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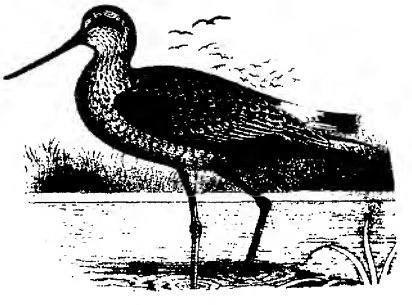
University of California
Davis, California 95616

Seabird/fisheries interaction:

George L. Hunt, Jr.
School of Biological Sciences
University of California
Irvine, Calif. 92664



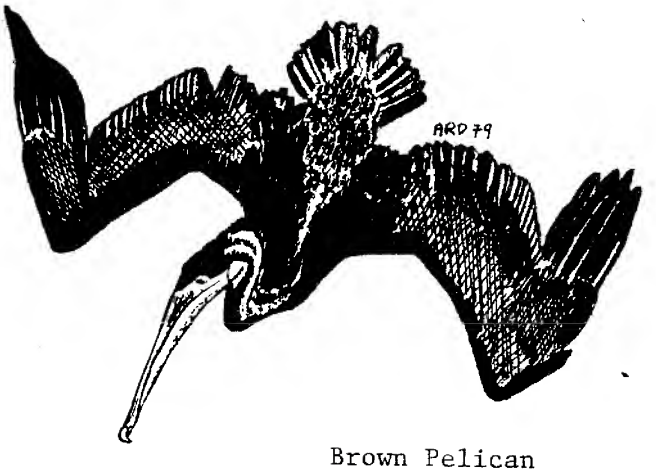
Hudsonian Godwit

PACIFIC

SEABIRD

GROUP

NEWS



Brown Pelican

Notice from the Seabird Committee of the International Ornithological Congress

Dr. W.R.P. Bourne, Secretary, recently asked for input concerning three matters:

1. An International Seabird Periodical.
2. Recording methods at sea.
3. The next IOC in Moscow in 1982.

I believe that we are discussing the first of these points in detail and it may well be that the PSG will be the "lead agency" in producing such a journal.

Any of you who are expert on recording methods at sea is asked to communicate ideas and suggestions on this matter.

We need to make more definite proposals for the Moscow IOC. Any and all suggestions would be appreciated as to plenary sessions, discussions, or excursions in the USSR.

In order to keep communication open on these matters I would appreciate very much if any of you have ideas as above would please send them to either me or Joe Jehl, Hubbs/SeaWorld, 1720 S. Shores Drive, San Diego, CA 92109, who is a member of the IOC Committee.

Ralph W. Schreiber

Reprinted from the Australasian Seabird Group Newsletter No. 11,
November, 1978

EDITORAL

At the June 1978 meeting of the International Seabird Group, where we were represented by Gavin Johnstone, there was a proposal for an International Seabird Newsletter to replace the regional newsletters and bulletins. Some felt that there was too much duplication of effort and material for an overlapping membership. Although there may be some merit in the proposal, the tyranny of distance and the tardiness of sea-mail make it impractical. Mail from North America, Europe and Southern Africa has been taking as long as half year to reach us. Even items sent by airmail have taken that long.

Furthermore there are advantages of informality and personal contact in the operation of a local publication, that would be lost in that of a more august and remote international publication. We try to bring out our Newsletter as often as sufficient copy has accumulated to warrant a number. We plan to continue to draw to the attention of our readers items of more than local interest about the activities of the other sea-bird groups. We welcome a broad variety of material for publication in our Newsletter, and we are particularly keen to obtain information on the activities and appearances of birds at sea.

Brian Bell
Peter Fullagar
Chris Robertson
Jerry van Tets

****

Dr. T.R. Birkhead Hon. Secretary of The Seabird Group sent us an informative article from the BTO News of the British Trust for Ornithology. As it describes the "new look" for the Seabird Group, we are printing it here in somewhat condensed form. Dr. Birkhead requests we take particular note of their interest in a combined Seabird Group Journal.

A NEW LOOK FOR THE SEABIRD GROUP

The Seabird Group was formed in 1966 with the aim of promoting and improving the co-ordination of seabird studies. It started with a small band of enthusiasts and much of the early efforts were devoted to watching birds at sea from headlands around the British and Irish coasts. This quickly drew attention to hitherto little realised large movements of sea-birds such as Sooty, Great and Cory's Shearwaters, but after a while sea-watching lost some its general appeal.

The major achievement of the Seabird Group was the organisation of "Operation Seafarer" in 1969-70. This was the first time a national census of breeding seabirds had been carried out anywhere in the world. It provided a solid base for more detailed monitoring schemes as described below.

After Seafarer the impetus of the Group was reduced somewhat although it continued to advise on a number of seabird matters. Bill Bourne, who was the founding father of the Group and who steered it throughout its first decade, became increasingly involved in monitoring the distribution of birds at sea, and in protecting the interests of seabirds threatened by shore developments, oiling, chlorinated hydrocarbons, heavy metals, introduced mammals and disease. He finally persuaded the Committee to allow him to release the reins. The second founding member is Chris Perrins, the last five years he has served as its Chairman. Finally, John Crudass who was also in at the start, has acted for the Group as Treasurer. The Seabird Group owes these three a great debt of gratitude and their constant presence will be sorely missed.

Chris Mead is to be the other Chairman of the Group. Tim Stowe has offered to edit a Newsletter for the time being which will be produced regularly three times a year.

The Seabird Group will now review its aims and formulate new policy statements. The central aim should remain the same but to further this, a directory of members of the Group and their interests is being drawn up. All those who contribute will be sent a copy of the directory whether they are members of the Group or not.

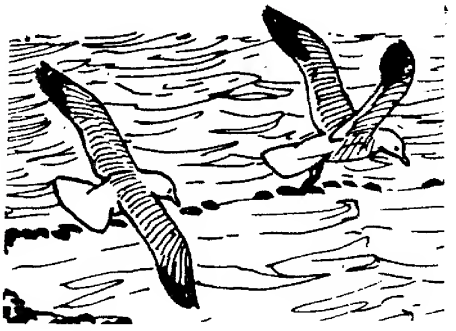
One of the purposes of the Newsletter will be to keep members up to date with what is happening in seabird research and we propose to include as a regular feature abstracts of relevant seabird papers and reviews of the activities of other Seabird Groups -- S. African, Australasian, and Pacific.

The Seabird Report has not been printed for some time but we are presently planning for an issue next year and any potential contributions will be welcomed. There is a possibility that the Seabird Group of the UK may combine with the others to produce an international seabird journal and this is being investigated at present.

Besides acting as a vehicle for communication between people interested in seabirds, the Group intends to develop co-ordinated studies, monitoring the status of selected seabird colonies, the distribution of birds at sea, and collection and analyses of birds found dead along the shore. Plans are presently proceeding to decide on the best way to repeat "Operation Seafarer" and a photographic coverage of UK cliff colonies is being organised. The Group also hopes to encourage better co-ordinated seabird ringing programmes with more linkage between expeditions, more collection of useful biometric data, and more ringing of pulli so that subsequent recoveries are of known aged birds. Worthy seabird expeditions to explore little known areas in the UK and abroad, and to carry out research projects, will continue to be supported financially.

Western Grebe

The three main studies the Seabird Group will be co-ordinating are:
(1) CENSUS TECHNIQUES: Seabirds can be used to monitor the quality of the marine environment, but to do this we need reliable census methods. Because auks are especially sensitive to changes in marine conditions, and are therefore the species most at risk, most effort has been channeled into the development of suitable census techniques. Essentially, we require a two tier system: first we need to know the location and approximate size of all British colonies, and "Operation Seafarer" fulfilled this particular objective. Second, we need to know something about the status of particular populations. A combined effort by seabird biologists on both sides of the North Atlantic over the last ten years has produced techniques which will enable us to monitor changes in auk numbers. T.R. Birkhead and D.N. Nettleship are currently producing a broad-based international guide to censusing guillemots *Uria* spp., on behalf of the Seabird Group and Canadian Wildlife Service. At the same time P.G.H. Evans on behalf of the Seabird Group census subcommittee is producing an instruction manual for all auk species, for counters at British colonies. Please write to him at EGI Zoology Dept., South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS if you would like a copy. Since 1972 the RSPB and the Seabird Group have monitored a number of study colonies, and the results of these are to be published by J. Cadbury and T.J. Stowe.



Herring Gulls

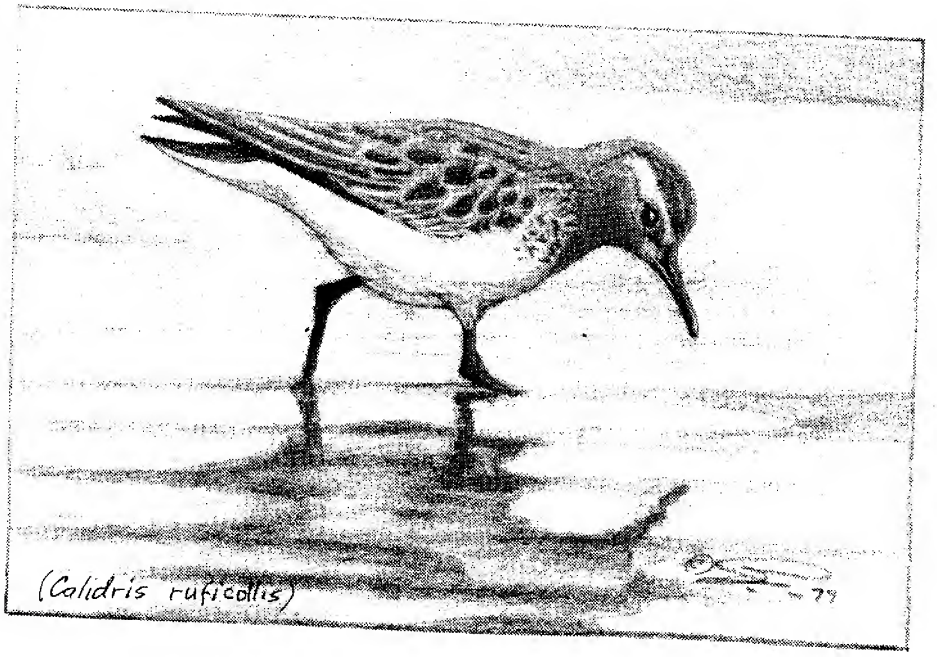
(2) STUDIES OF BIRDS AT SEA: Peter Hope-Jones is co-ordinating this at present, working mainly in the North Sea. The aim of this study is to monitor seabird numbers at both fixed points(oil platforms) and from boats on a long-term basis. Over the last two years, John Croxall has been designing a suitable form for recording birds at sea on behalf of the Seabird Group and British Antarctic Survey. The aim is to provide a simple and convenient recording system which may readily be computerised for data storage and subsequent analysis. This has been drawn up in consultation with members of the Executive Committee and with the South African, Australasian, and Pacific Seabird Groups. It has now been passed to Peter Hope-Jones to finalise in liason with the Canadian Wildlife Service, and should be available soon.

Encouragement will be given for regular users of a ferry to participate in the above scheme and anyone interested should write to Peter Hope-Jones, Nature Conservancy Council, Wynne-Edwards House, 17 Rubislaw Ter., Aberdeen.

(3) OIL VICTIMS: Until recently, birds which died as a result of oiling incidents, were usually either burnt or buried; a remarkable waste of biological material. Peter Morgan and Peter Hope-Jones have started to collect and store such oil victims. Starting with the Christos Bitas incident in October 1978, large numbers of auks were collected, sexed, measured, cleaned and preserved. By collecting and analysing material of this sort we shall increase our understanding of seabird systematics, movements and moult. In addition, this material provides essential base-line information on toxic chemical loads in seabird bodies. The organisers of this project are particularly anxious to obtain corpses of ringed birds(since this will often provide details of age and breeding status), so if you come across the body of a seabird bearing a ring, please send the entire corpse to: P.J. Morgan, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, Gwent.

If you are interested in finding out more about membership of the Seabird Group(which costs only £1 per annum for adults over 21 years, and 50p for those under 21 years or full-time students up to 25 years), please write to: T.R. Birkhead, Zoology Department, The University, Sheffield.

Tim Birkhead and Peter Evans



Rufous-necked Sandpiper

Bulletin Board

MEETING NOTICES

The sixth annual P.S.G. meeting will be held on 23-25 January 1980 at the Asilomar Conference Grounds, Monterey Peninsula, Pacific Grove, California.

Kees Vermeer suggested and Rob Shallenberger and J. Michael Scott have offered to host a PSG meeting in Hawaii in December or possibly Easter of next year of 1981. I am very much in favor of this suggestion since it would enable us to visit a different area. We could invite "western" Pacific seabird people who might find it convenient. The package deals now available would make the room little more expensive than simply air fare alone. Today it costs $318 from LAX-HONO-LAX and my travel agent says we can get up to 5-7 nights in most hotels for only about $30 more.

Please let me know your thoughts on this matter - place, date, who could be invited from "overseas," suggestions for symposia and workshops, where you would like to go for field trips, and generally what you think about the idea.

Ralph Schreiber

The American Ornithologists' Union will hold its annual meeting at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, August 11-15, 1980. An interesting program of scientific papers, lectures, exhibits, and tours is planned. The public is invited. For information about the local arrangements write Dr. Gustav A. Swanson, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University. Fort Collins, Colorado, 80523. For information about the program of papers, write Dr. Kendall Corbin, Secretary, American Ornithologists' Union, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS

WANTED--Records of birds observed in western Alaska on the Seward Peninsula, Norton Sound area, and St. Lawrence, King, Diomede, and Sledge islands, for inclusion in a publication on the avifauna of this area. Full credit will be given. HEINRICH SPRINGER, Box 352, Nome,Alaska 99762.

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An INDEX to the 21-volume Bent Life History series, compiled by Paul H. OEHSER, has been reprinted and is again available on request to the compiler at 9012 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA 22102.

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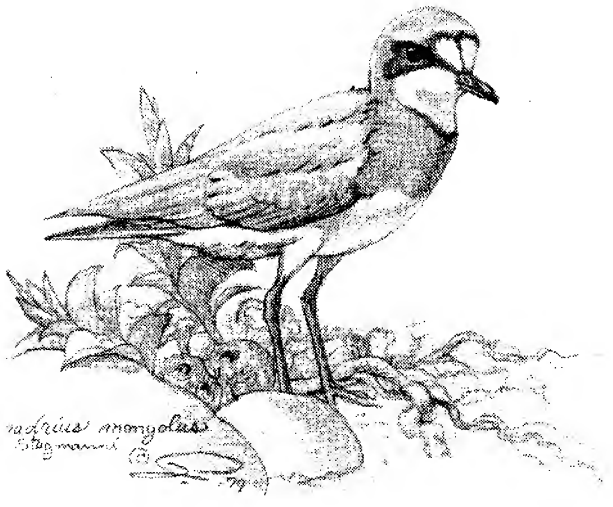
The Environmental Law Institute Announces its National Wetlands Newsletter.

The National Wetlands Newsletter provides government officials, planners and managers, scientists, attorneys, conservation groups and others concerned with wetlands and floodplain management a forum for exchanging ideas, information and problems. In addition, the National Wetlands Newsletter will provide its own expertise. As a project of the Environmental Law Institute, it can tap the many other projects of the Institute, including the monthly Environmental Law Reporter, and can use the expertise of the Institute's professionals, including lawyers, economists, and social, natural, and political scientists.

The National Wetlands Newsletter keeps you up to date on the status of progress and problems in these critical areas for $25.00 for 12 issues. The Editor of the National Wetlands Newsletter is Suzanne E. Schwartz, and Jon A. Kusler is a consultant.

National Wetlands Newsletter
Environmental Law Institute
Suite 600
1346 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington DC 20036



Mongolian Plover

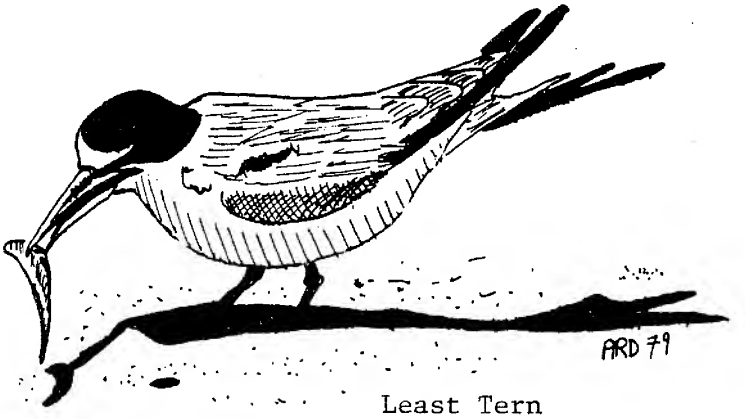
Wildlife California

A new, nonprofit foundation, dedicated to directly assist with important wildlife saving projects in California has been organized with headquarters in Sacramento.

One of its first projects, according to foundation president Robert A. Buchanan of Aptos, will be to raise money to help save the least tern in California.

"The least tern may be one of California's endangered wildlife species," Buchanan said,"but there is still something we can all do about it. The Department of Fish and Game proposes to construct nesting islands on areas they manage, but need $100,000 to get the job done. Our first objective will be to raise the money. Anyone who reads this can help us reach that objective by sending a donation to Wildlife California, P.O. Box 13154, Sacramento, California 95813. We are still working on our nonprofit status, but we expect these donations to be tax exempt."

The new foundation will be under the day-to-day direction of Pat Mahony of Sacramento, a recent employee of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith. Besides Buchanan, executive board members include Kent Dedrick of Sacramento and Seth Gordon of Sacramento.



Least Tern

American Cetacean Society Trips -- P.O. Box 22305 San Diego, CA 92122

The American Cetacean Society, a national non-profit organization with special interest in marine mammals and their habits is sponsoring WHALE WATCHING TRIPS in 1980. We offer both six-hour January weekend "day trips" around the Coronado Islands and week-long excursions to San Ignacio Lagoon -- both types of trips are led by competent naturalists. Our trips are primarily an educational service.

BIRDS TOO !!!

Therese Lessman
646 Nautilus Street
La Jolla, CA 92037
714-454-7251

CURRENT

LITERATURE

Black Brant
by
Laurie Henry

(Adapted from a drawing by
Jim Sharpe in Field and Stream)

Five books of interest to the PSG membership have emerged during the past few months. In fact in each case members of PSG have made major contributions to them. These works constitute a "rare feast" for those with an intellectual curiosity about birds whether they be amateur or professional ornithologists. Of particular interest is the discussion of and implications for conservation of the marine oriented avifauna that these works contain.

Shorebirds In Marine Environment - 1979 Frank A. Pitelka, Editor. Studies in Avian Biology No. 2, Cooper Ornithological Society, c/o Department of Biology, University of California, Los Angeles CA 90024. Price $8.90. 261 pages.

This book is the result of the shorebird symposium at the 1977 PSG annual meeting. The introduction by Editor Pitelka is an overview of the Pacific shorebirds and their place in the worldwide shorebird scene. This is followed by 16 papers on distribution, migration and conservation and a summary by Dr. Joseph Jehl, Jr. The second section on ecology has 10 papers summarized by Dr. John A. Wiens.

Conservation of Marine Birds of Northern North America - 1979. James C. Bartonek and David N. Nettleship, editors. Wildlife Research Report 11, U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240. 319 pages.

These are the papers presented at the International Symposium held at the Seattle Hyatt House, Seattle, WA, 13-15 May 1975. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Natural Resources Council of America, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; additional support was

provided by the Canadian Wildlife Service, the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners, the Pacific Seabird Group, the Sierra Club, the Smithsonian Institution, the Wildlife Management Institute, and the Wildlife Society. There were 139 registered and several score of unregistered participants in attendance. Major topics were: (1) socioeconomic considerations and conservation of marine birds; (2) the marine environment of birds; (3) status of marine bird populations on land and sea; (4) the biology and ecology of marine birds in the North; (5) conflicts between the conservation of marine birds and uses of other resources; (6) programs and authorities related to the conservation of marine birds; and (7) conservation of marine birds in other lands. There are 29 papers and a rousing summary by Dr. Ian C.T. Nisbet.

Management and Biology of Pacific Flyway Geese. 1979. Robert L. Jarvis and James C. Bartonek, Editors. A symposium published by O.S.U. Bookstores Inc., Box 489, Corvallis, Oregon 97330. Price $6.25. 346 pages.

This book has 24 papers, eleven of which deal with geese that depend heavily on marine habitats ie. white-fronted geese, black brant, and four races of Canada geese.

Seabird Colony Catalogs. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published a Seabird Colony Catalog for the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. The catalog was compiled by Daniel H. Varoujean from the published literature available in 1978 and some unpublished manuscripts and reports. Census work being completed in 1979 on the Northern California coast by the FWS Office of Biological Services and the Oregon and Washington coasts by the National Wildlife Refuges concerned will be included in the Catalog when it is updated during FY 80. Limited copies are available from: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Birds, 500 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 1692, Portland, OR 97232.

Catalog of Alaskan Seabird Colonies by Arthur L. Sowls, Scott A. Hatch and Calvin J. Lensink. Published by the Office of Biological Services in Anchorage(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

This catalog is an excellent summary of baseline data on seabird colonies on the Alaskan coast. The first section has an illustration, a map showing distribution, and a discussion about each species. The second section is an atlas with maps showing the location and size of known colonies, tables showing the population of each species in the colony, and a discussion that includes details about information sources and the factors influencing population sizes.

The purpose of the catalog is twofold. It presents up-to-date information on seabirds for consideration by industry and government planners. It also identifies specific gaps in our knowledge of seabird colonies.

This effort may accelerate the accumulation of new information by encouraging interested observers to fill in gaps and make corrections. The catalog has looseleaf binding to facilitate revisions as warranted.

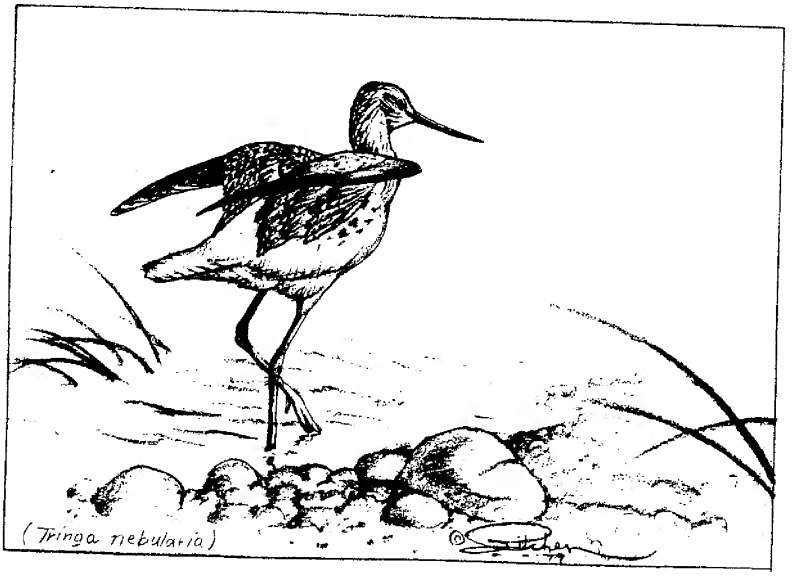
The Fish and Wildlife Service views the project as ongoing and the catalog as an important initial step. Primary funding for the preparation of the catalog came from the Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the Bureau of Land Management.

A few copies of this catalog are still available from Cal Lensink, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503. Cal advises plans are underway for a second printing and perhaps general distribution through the Government Printing Office. See PSG Bulletin Vol. 5, No. 1 for an example of maps and art work from this Alaska catalog.

Mark Strong

The Birds of the San Benito Islands, Lower California, Mexico. 1978. by Jeffrey Boswell, Bristol Ornithology #11.

Jeffery Boswell spent 23 days(23 May to 14 June, 1975) filming the wildlife for B.B.C. on West San Benito Island(115^{o} 37'W, 28^{o} 19'N). This residence is probably the longest of any ornithologist to date. Dr. Boswell has compiled the published material on birds of San Benito along with his observation. The forty-one bird species seen on the islands comprise a systematic list which is very informative. Dr. Boswell's address is: B.B.C. Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2LR, Great Britain.



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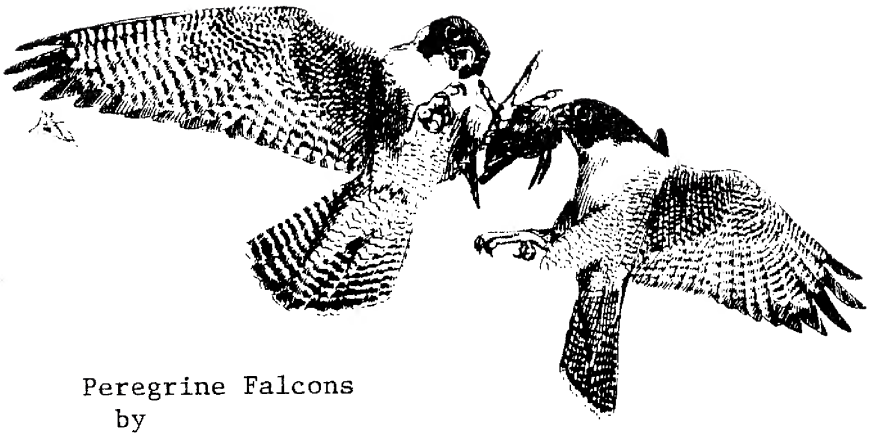


Peregrine Falcons
by
John Schmidt

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

March 9, 1979

Dear Sirs:

In the summer 1978 Bulletin of the Pacific Seabird Group there appears a letter from Dan Anderson to Robert Leggett, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and the Environment. Since Mr. Anderson signed his letter as Chairman, PSG, I assume that the opinions expressed can be considered policy of the PSG in general and, therefore, the organization is entirely in favor of creating as many Federal Parks, Monuments and Refuges in the state of Alaska as possible. This philosophy is not conducive to sound fish and game management and the specific methods suggested for "protecting coastal resources" in reality offer nothing that does not currently exist.

I would offer no argument to the idea that critical wildlife habitat should be protected, but an examination of the words critical and protected must be made. If we are truly concerned about protecting the habitat, we don't even need to discuss hunting except in terms of access that may be detrimental. In other words, it may be beneficial to the quality of habitat to restrict off road vehicles, motorcycles, et cetra; probably not much of a concern to the habitat of sea birds inhabiting coastal Alaska.

While I do not and have never worked directly with sea birds, I find it difficult to accept the idea of a six mile seaward boundary being a "critical habitat" boundary. I would assume most species are often encountered further than six miles from shore. Spilled contaminants will not adhere to such boundaries either. And I am more than confused that Mr. Anderson feels the Federal Government could actually

provide more "sensitive management of nearshore waters" than are currently in effect. The permitting structure of the Army Corps of Engineers is quite extensive and would surely cover any development that would be of a large enough scale to reduce a critical habitat's quality. Furthermore, the Marine and Coastal Habitat Management Section of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has as its primary function the protection of coastal waters granted to the state of Alaska under the auspices of the Statehood Act.

But my concern is more with the blanket philosophy of creating refuges and parks, and the attending belief that such classifications will be an automatic panacea to ensure healthy populations on good habitat. Perhaps morally(if we are against hunting) and politically(if we like the security the Federal Government offers), we can argue in favor of creation of a maximum number of "protective" acres; but biologically we cannot. The loss in flexibility of management of populations affected by such a change in land status should be carefully weighed against any seeming benefits that would be gained due to a more restrictive system. Granted, we should anticipate threats to critical habitat but we should not tie our own hands in the face of an always uncertain future.

As a member of the Pacific Seabird Group, I ask that you publish this letter in the next Bulletin and seriously consider a more practical view in a policy statement regarding seabird habitat in Alaska.

Sincerely,

W. Bruce Dinneford
Box 2405
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

17 Sept. 1979

Dear Sir,

Presumably in view of the comparative difficulty of the task of preparation there must have been a Seabird Colony Catalog available for the more south-easterly United States for at least a century. Please could you tell me where I obtain it? If you cannot help me, perhaps you could be good enough to publish my enquiry in case anyone else can.

Yours sincerely,

W.R.P. Bourne
University of Aberdeen - Dept. of Zoology
Tillydrone Avenue
Aberdeen, AB9 2TN

19 March 1979

Dear Jim,

I offer some comments on Bruce Dinneford's letter dated 9 March 1979. First, the idea of offshore refuges, conservation zones, etc. is one whose time is coming, although the idea is not new. One philosophy is simple in the panacea of protection: developers have to keep their cotton-pickin hands off. Refuges per se are not a panacea for wildlife protection, management, or conservation; they are a good way to start things off. We should encourage administrators, politicians, and managers to think in terms of offshore refuges and protection zones (of course with variable degrees of exclusion); then we can start dealing with specifics.

The statements in my previous letter pertained to the idea of offshore and other refuges and our support of them. Dinneford expanded that sentiment to mean PSG favored turning the State of Alaska into federal parks, monuments, and refuges. Anyway, there never seems to be enough of such units, and I do not question the wisdom or intent of Secretary Andrus and other federal administrators(supported as well by most private conservation groups) when they proposed such areas--and lots of them.

I also offer no argument that critical habitat(no matter where and once defined) must be protected, as a first step. I also offer no argument that the specifics of management are complex and certainly also individual in many aspects. That's why we have managers. How hunting comes in at this point for most seabirds(except for waterfowl where hunting is a management tool) is beyond me.

A six-mile limit is indeed arbitrary, but data provided me by Stan Senner suggested that six miles would be reasonable as a starter(see my letter). No one can argue that valid definitions of such limits change in time and place. I would not argue about extending such boundaries. For many seabirds, an offshore protection zone will be the only way to secure feeding areas, for example. In some areas, activities with pollution potential might be prevented or better regulated. No boundaries can really protect from pollution itself and the only answer to protecting from uncontrollable pollution might be "no pollution." I cannot accept the idea that a natural system's ability to absorb pollution is a natural resource in itself. Offshore refuges would have little to do with preventing pollution that was already there, but they might provide administrators with better legal grounds if some critical habitat had already been delineated and then subsequently damaged.

Federal protection of land via refuges, etc. has always been annoying to some people, but there is no doubt of the national values and significance of refuges, parks, monuments, etc. in the United States. There is nothing to stop both federal and state agencies from cooperatively managing and

protecting defined areas, critical habitat, and just plain neat places. Private enterprise seldom takes such responsibility. On the other hand, the Corps of Engineers is not a wildlife protection agency; and they don't exactly have the best reputation of doing it. Who even accused the state agencies of not doing their jobs? I don't understand why Dinneford is so sensitive.

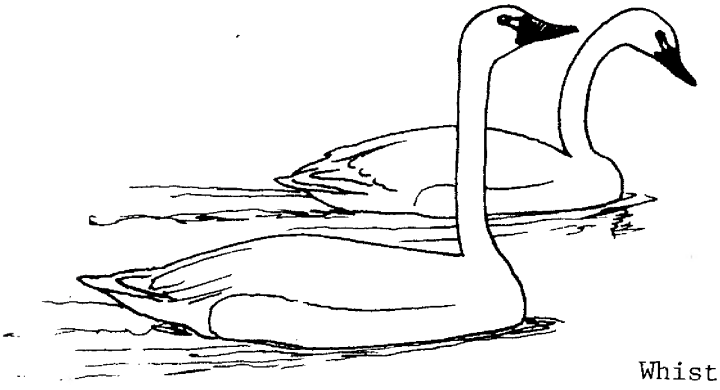
I see no evidence that formally-established refuges, parks, etc. result in loss of flexability of management. In fact, they increase it regarding wildlife and habitat.

I hope more discussion can be generated. I also agree that more specific policy statements need to be prepared by the PSG. My letter of 28 March was not a policy statement but a reflection of the PSG Executive Council. Please read about the purposes and goals of the PSG and our treatment of official policy statements in past issues of PSG Bulletin. Perhaps it is time for some kind of an official policy statement. There is already a committee formed and headed by Palmer Sekora, in fact, that is dealing with this subject matter. I would suggest that Mr. Dinneford volunteer to serve on that committee, so that his views can be better expressed.

Oh, by the way, Mr. Leggett has since retired from Congress and was replaced by Vic Fazio. Leggett's position on the subcommittee was taken by John Breaux from Louisiana.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Anderson
Past-Chairman, PSG
Wildlife and Fisheries Biology
University of California
Davis, CA 95616



Whistling Swans

REGIONAL REPORTS

Canada At Large

I think I finally have my seabird research plans finalized for this summer(1979) and to a certain extent for the one following. All projects listed are being conducted or will be conducted in British Columbia.

University of Manitoba(Department of Zoology, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2)

A long-term study of the interactions of marine birds and their environment in Barkley Sound, west coast of Vancouver Island, is being initiated in 1979 out of the Bamfield Marine Station. Spencer G. Sealy, Principal Investigator.

Research Projects

1. Behavioral and ecological aspects of multispecies feeding groups. Julie M. Porter.
2. Characterization of marine environment used by post-breeding Common Murres and their young. Harry R. Carter.
3. Foraging distribution of Marbled Murrelets.
4. Pigeon Guillemot banding and marking.

I will keep you posted as future projects become initiated. Carter will be continuing his work on precocial alcids sporadically this summer on Rankine Island, QCI, and on a continuous basis in 1980. I will provide a summary statement for that project later.

Spencer G. Sealy

Washington

Current Research

University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Wildlife Sciences Group, College of Forest Resources.

Survey of Washington Islands Wilderness - Steve Speich, Robert Pitman, Pam Gunther.

Northern Puget Sound Marine Bird Survey - Steve Speich, Terence Wahl, and David Manuwal.

Winter feeding habits of scoters - Katie Hirsch.

Alaska

Marine Birds of the Barren Islands Alaska - David Manuwal, Doug Woodby, and Katie Hirsch.

Incubation capacity as a limiting factor of shorebird clutch size - Sue Hills.

Hawaii

Biology of the dark-rumped petrel in Hawaii - Ted Simons.

Institute for Environmental Studies

The role of environmental variability and species interaction on reproduction patterns in Leach's and fork-tailed storm petrels- Dee Borsma.

Incubation and thermal nesting environment in fork-tailed storm petrels on the Barren Island, Alaska - Dee Borsma.

Walla Walla College, College Place, WA.

Nesting habitat of pigeon guillemots on Protection Island - John Banks and Asa Thoreson.

Nest parameters of glaucous-winged gulls on Protection Island - Bill Van Scheil.

Aggressive communications of glaucous-winged gulls on Protection Island - Dr. Joseph Galusha and Heather Roberts.

Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA.

Time and activity budgets of pigeon guillemots in Discovery Bay, WA - Lee E. Hedrick.

Battelle Northwest Laboratories, Ecosystems Department, 600 Area, Richland, WA 99352

Nesting ecology of ring-billed gulls, California gulls, and Forster's terns - Richard Fitzner.

Study of movements of ring-billed and California gulls nesting on Columbia River islands - Richard Fitzner.

Shorebird seasonal use of ponded habitats - Richard Fitzner.

Seattle Aquarium, Seattle, WA.

Investigation of burrow configuration and nest-site tenacity of rhinoceros auklets - Gary Ballew and Dr. John Nightengale.

Temperature parameters of rhinoceros auklet burrows - Gary Ballew and Dr. John Nightengale.

Food utilization and growth of captive rhinoceros auklets and pigeon guillemots - Gary Ballew and Dr. John Nightengale.

Washington State Department of Game, Olympia, WA

Marine bird survey of southern Puget Sound - Lora Leschner.

The rhinoceros auklet as an indicator species: comparisons between Destruction Island and Protection Island - Lora Leschner in cooperation with Ulrich Wilson, USFWS.

The banding of Caspian terns, gulls, and shorebirds in Grays Harbor Estuary: An Examination of tenacity, habitat selection, and migration - Fred Hosea and Jack Smith.

Black brant studies on Padilla Bay - Dick Parker.

Coastal zone habitat inventory - Ron Hirschi.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Islands and Willapa National Wildlife Refuges, Ilwaco, WA.

Ulrich Wilson joined the staff as Refuge Biologist on 3 Jan. 1979.

Annual aerial counts of marine birds on offshore islands - Joe Welch and Ulrich Wilson.

The rhinoceros auklet as an indicator species: comparisons between Destruction Island and Protection Island - Ulrich Wilson in cooperation with Lora Leschner, WDOG.

Nesting of snowy plovers on Leadbetter Point - Marilyn Lippert.

Distribution and abundance of black brant wintering in Willapa Bay.

Items of Interest

Ralph Widrig has completed his book Shorebirds of Leadbetter Point.

This is the result of a 12-month census with notes on other records from Willapa Bay. Copies may be obtained by sending $7.00 to: Ralph Widrig, Box 43, Ocean Park, WA 98640

Protection Island

Seventy-two percent of all the seabirds nesting in the Straits of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound nest on Protection Island. The Washington Department of Game owns 11% of the island. The remainder of the island is privately owned. Present and planned developments are jeopardizing the seabird colonies on the island.

Building has been restricted due to lack of potable water on the island. However, a developer has purchased the remaining lots on the island and has proposed to pipe water and electricity from the mainland. Time-share condominiums are planned along with increased sales and development of lots.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Game Department, Audubon chapters, and the Washington Environmental Council are fighting the water pipeline proposal. Jefferson County Commission appears to be in favor of development. The future looks gloomy. Letters and calls to the Commission, to state legislators, Senators Warren Magnuson and Henry Jackson, and congressional representatives are needed. The island should be in state or federal ownership and protected from human pressures.

Lora Leschner

Oregon

Current Research

U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel Dr. Dan Varoujean and Bob Pitman conducted and completed a field seabird colony inventory of the Oregon coast. This is the most comprehensive and intensive seabird inventory made of the Oregon coast. Data collected will be included in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Seabird Colony Catalog, Washington, Oregon and California.

Seabird Sanctuaries Committee Report

The proposed PSG policy statement on "Seabird Sanctuaries" has been completed and submitted to the Executive Committee.

Palmer C. Sekora

Laughing Gull

Northern California

Current Research

Most(if not all) projects listed in the Winter, 1978, PSG Bulletin (Vol. 5, No. 2) are continuing. The following are new projects or those not mentioned previously.

(1) Art Sowls and others of the USFWS are censusing breeding colonies of marine birds in northern and central California, supported by OCS funds.

(2) Ken Briggs, Dave Lewis, Ellen Chu, and Breck Tyler at UC Santa Cruz are awaiting hoped-for funding from BLM to carry out pelagic surveys of marine vertebrates in potential northern California oil lease sale areas.

(3) Gary Page, Lynne Stenzel, and David Ainley of PRBO are undertaking coastal surveys of sea- and shorebirds through support from ERDA. Their project also includes experimental release of bird carcasses in nearshore areas to determine movements and rates of decomposition by beached birds.

Items of Interest

By this time you have probably heard that coyotes crossed the land bridge to Negit Island on Mono Lake in late May and wiped out nearly all the California Gull breeding effort for this year. Negit Island and other islands have become and are becoming exposed to terrestrial predation due to water diversions to meet Los Angeles' insatiable appetite for water. Now more than ever Mono Lake needs support, particularly by writing Los Angeles, California, and federal public officials and elected representatives concerning the need for an immediate moratorium on water diversions until firm decisions are made about protecting the lake. For more information, write: Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 2764, Oakland, CA 94602.

This has been an extremely productive year on continental shelf areas throughout much of northern California. Marine bird populations at the Farallon Islands came back very strongly after last year's near total breeding flop, particularly Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants, Western Gulls, Pigeon Guillemots, and Cassin's Auklets. Principal prey of nearly all Farallon species this year was juvenile rockfish, suggesting that rockfish populations are holding out despite heavy fishing pressure in the area. Commercial and party fishing boats also reported substantial catches of large salmon throughout much of the region. Sooty Shearwaters remained in Monterey Bay and the Gulf of the Farallones throughout much of the summer in large numbers, instead of merely passing through during spring migration. The 1979 summer season appears to have been a boom year in a continuing cycle of booms and busts.

Bob Boekelheide

Status of the Short-tailed Albatross of Torishima and in the Senkaku Retto in 1978/79

by

Hiroshi Hasegawa
Department of Biology, Faculty of Science
Toho University
Miyama, Funabashi, Chiba 274 Japan

In the latter half of the previous century, the Short-tailed Albatross Diomedea albatrus bred in huge numbers on Torishima in the southern Izus, on Mukojima Retto in the northern Bonins, on Senkaku Retto in the southern Ryukyus, and on some other islands in the western North Pacific Ocean. However, heavy exploitations of the eggs and feathers in these islands diminished the populations rapidly, and the existence of the species finally became threatened in the 1940's. Previously I had reported the status of this species on Torishima(Hasegawa, 1977), but recent observations may arouse much interest among those concerned with Pacific seabirds; therefore, I would like to report here the results of current investigations on the status of this endangered species.

Torishima(30° 29'N, 140° 19'E)

From 16 to 22 March 1979, I made a trip to Torishima to check the breeding population. On 20 March supported by the crew of the R.V. Miyako(Captain Isamu Aonuma) of the Tokyo Metropolitan Fisheries Experimental Station I was able to land on Torishima with Mr. Yoichi Okamura, a fisheries biologist at the experimental station, and by walking along the beach we reached the breeding grounds called Tsubame-zaki. There I found 22 well-grown chicks and I banded them all with the monel and numbered plastic(black on white) bands on each tarsus. Due to changing conditions of the sea and weather, we had to leave there after a brief stay.

Rather good breeding output in 1978/79 season may partly be due to mild climate(cf. Hasegawa, 1978).

While I was aboard the vessel offshore of the Tsubame-zaki slope, I observed the albatrosses, which were in good view among the stunted vegetation, and I confirmed at least 95 older birds(both parent and younger adults) present in the nesting colony. These figures indicate recent steady but slow increase in numbers of the Torishima population (cf. Tickell, 1973, 1975; Sanger, 1977; Hasegawa, 1978).

Minami-kojima in the Senkaku Retto(25° 45'N, 123° 36'E)

Although not mentioned in detail in the authoritative English literature(e.g. Austin, 1949), the Short-tailed Albatross bred in large numbers in the Senkaku Retto; at least on Kobisho(Miyashima

1900, 1900-01), Uotsurijima(Kuroiwa 1900-01), and perhaps on some other islets in the group(Takara, 1963). The breeding population was reduced primarily through the feather exploitation and also by predations of feral cats and rats which multiplied after escape. Since the presence of the species was not confirmed by the later zoological expeditions to the islands, it was thought that the species had been extirpated from the group(Masaki, 1941; Takara, 1954, 1963, 1969).

In April 1971, however, 12 individuals of this species were observed on a narrow ledge of steep cliff of Minami-kojima, which lies about 6km east-southeast of Uotsurijima, but the breeding was not confirmed (Ikehara & Shimojana, 1971). No surveys were done in the subsequent years and the status had long been unknown.

Very recently, from 10 to 18 March 1979, a scientific expedition to these islands was carried out under the directorship of Prof. Ikehara of University of the Ryukyus supported by a Japan Maritime Safety Agency patrol ship. They sighted the Short-tailed Albatrosses on the wing around the islands, but they were prevented from landing on Minami-kojima by rough sea. On 19 March using a helicopter an aerial survey was conducted. At about 1000 hr(J.S.T.) in exactly the same place that Ikehara and Shimojana(1971) last reported, Short-tailed Albatrosses were present and filmed by an N.H.K.(Japan Broadcasting Corporation) T.V. team directed by Mr. Masahiro Okada, who had accompanied the expedition party. This 16-mm cine-film clearly showed at least 16 individuals (13 parent and 3 younger adults) on a narrow(ca. 5x20m) cliff-ledge at about 100m above sea level. Two other objects, different from adult Black-footed Albatrosses but very like the chicks of Short-tailed Albatross were seen although evidence of breeding was not confirmed since minute details were not distinguishable on the picture.

This observation indicates the probable recolonization(or persistence) of the Short-tailed Albatross in the Senkaku Retto. It is not understood at present why the albatross selected such a seemingly abnormal site, but human disturbance may possibly be involved. It has been reported that fishermen from Taiwan frequently visit these islands to collect the eggs of the Brown Booby Sula leucogaster and Sooty Tern Sterna fuscata(Takara, 1969). The season(probably from March to July) does not coincide with the egg season of the Short-tailed Albatross(from November to December), but it appears that the species avoids disturbance on a site that is difficult to approach.

Tufted Duck

The re-discovery of the Short-tailed Albatross in the Senkaku Retto is of great significance for the conservation of this rare species. Torishima is an active volcanic island, so the population breeding there, which is still extremely small now, is vulnerable to volcanic explosion; Minami-kojima is not a volcano; therefore, there is not such danger. If the Senkaku Retto Population is strictly protected from human disturbance and re-establishes itself, the probability of species extinction will be greatly reduced.

At least 111 older birds and 22 fledglings were observed at the two distant islands in the 1978/79 season, and this figure is the largest of recent censuses. It gives us much more hope for the future existence and faster recovery of the Short-tailed Albatross population.

I wish to thank Captain Isamu Aonuma and all the crew of the R.V. Miyako, and Mr. Yoichi Okamura for all their help. Also I am very grateful to Mr. Masahiro Okada at N.H.K. Broadcasting Center for his generous co-operation in allowing me to see the film taken in the Senkaku Retto as well as providing me his own observations, and to Prof. Sadao Ikehara of University of the Ryukyus for his kindness in communicating the Senkaku Retto expediton. I also wish to thank Dr. W.L.N. Tickell for his critical reading of an earlier draft.

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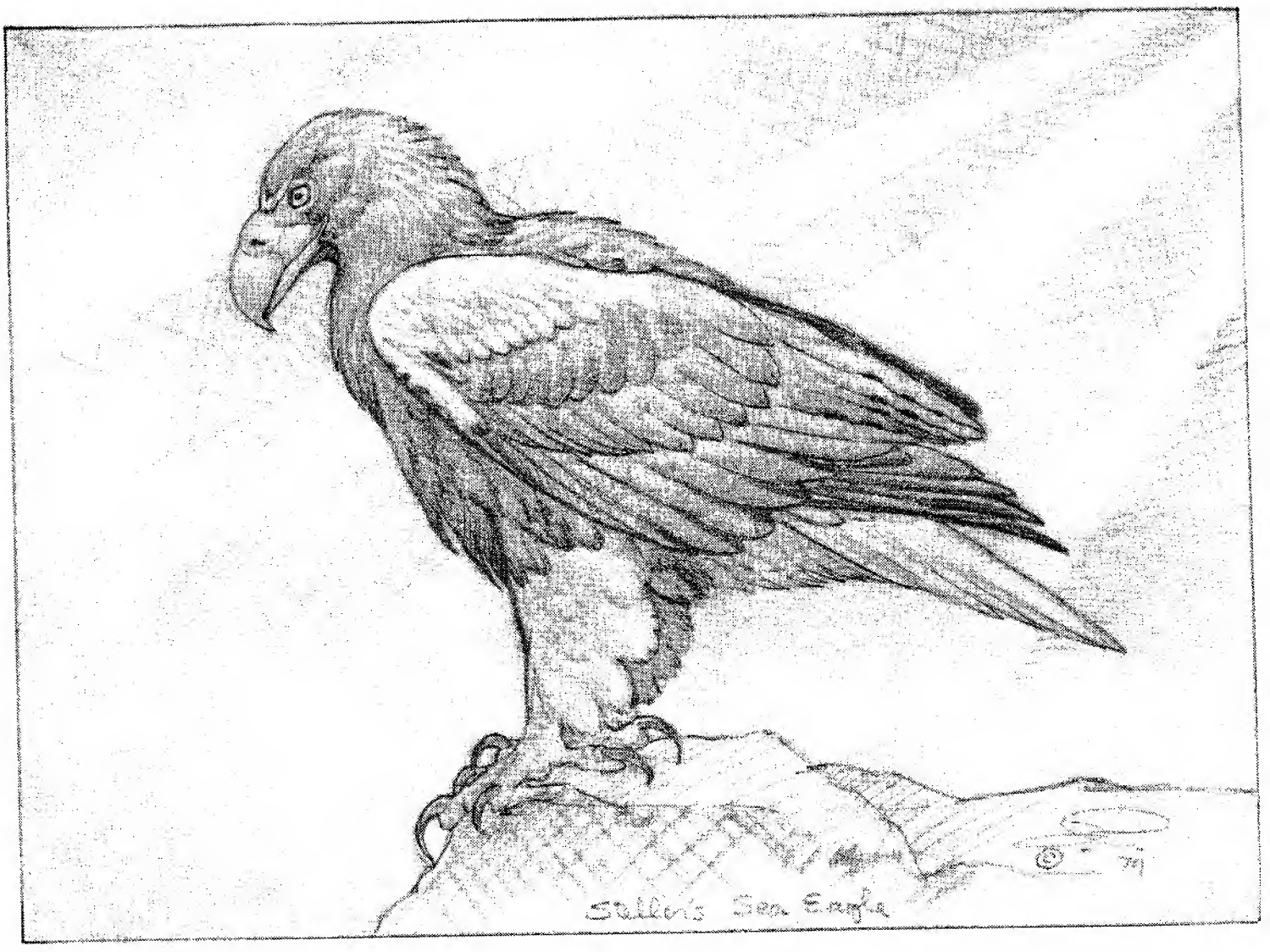

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(The) Ecology Center, 2179 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704
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Serial Record Div., Stanford Univ. Library, Stanford, CA 94305
Santa Barbara Mus. Nat. Hist., 2559 Puesta Del Sol Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Library, Nat'l Marine Fisheries Serv., SW Fisheries Ctr., Box 271, La Jolla, CA 92038
Los Angeles Public Library, Sci-Tech, 630 W. 5th St., L.A., CA 90071
Dept. Fish & Game, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814
Library, Wildlife Research Ctr., USFWS, Federal Center Bldg., 16, Denver, CO 80225
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Library, Bishop Museum, Box 6037, Honolulu, HI 96818
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